



M O N T A N A
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL
V I O L E N C E

March 20th, 2009

To: Senate Finance and Claims
From: Kelsen Young, Executive Director
Re: HB 108 – Revise Deposit of Restitution Payments

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 2
Date 3-20-09
Bill No. HB 108

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Kelsen Young and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. We are a statewide membership organization representing direct service programs from across the state that provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. We rise in strong support of House Bill 108 sponsored by Representative Hollenbaugh.

Crime Victims Compensation is an incredibly valuable program for victims of crime which includes domestic and sexual violence victims. The Office of Victim Services at the Department of Justice does a fantastic job in providing services to victims. But they have been unable to fully compensate victims for their expenses due to the limited funding available. You will hear from other proponents that the current funding is not adequate to fully cover the expenses incurred and then submitted to DOJ and that victims end up receiving delayed reimbursement and only a limited portion of the expense is reimbursed. Anything to increase the timeliness and availability of reimbursement is essential to victims of crime.

In addition, by creating this special revenue account the State of Montana would be able to receive more federal matching funds. We should do whatever we can to receive as much funding that is available to support victims of crime.

Thanks for your time. I apologize for not being able to attend the hearing and am available for questions.

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